In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method for the transmission of information via an optical data transmission line, at least one end of which being provided with an optoelectronic interface having a transmitter side and a receiver side, a light source which ~~can be~~ is modulated to carry information through a light signal by data transmission being provided transmitter side, and a light-sensitive receive element, for converting light to an electrical signal that varies with intensity of light received by the receive element being provided receiver side, said method comprising:

amplifying and processing a signal at an output of the receive element;

monitoring and recording signal intensity of light received by the receive element independently of current strength of the electrical signal to obtain a signal monitoring output;

displaying the recorded signal at a signal monitoring device to show the presence or absence of a data signal;

lowering intensity of light at the transmitter side so far below a minimum threshold value of signal amplitude used for the data transmission that the signal monitoring output at the receive-side end records and displays a missing input signal of the light receive element;

again raising emitted light intensity above the threshold value ;

and repeatedly the lowering and raising of the light intensity in time cycle in encoded form to provide an encoded signal monitoring output ; and

evaluating the encoded signal monitoring output by a corresponding evaluation logic.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein a laser is provided as transmit element to provide a laser signal and a photodiode is provided as a receive element, and a laser supply voltage signal is switched on and off by drive electronics of the laser using a ~~"Laser Enable"~~ Laser Enable signal.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the laser supply voltage is switched on and off in encoded form.

4. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claims~~ claim 1 wherein the evaluation logic is implemented by software.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the evaluation takes place in a separate microprocessor independent of ~~the~~ evaluation of ~~the~~ normal data signal.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the signal monitoring output provides data in the form of data words and a start bit is transmitted at the beginning of a transmitted data word and a stop bit at the end of the data word.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein format specification of the data words corresponds to an RS 232 interface.

8. (currently amended) A device for the transmission of information via an optical data transmission line having a transmission end and a receiving end, said device comprising: ~~an~~ optoelectronic ~~interface~~ interfaces ~~comprising~~ at a transmitter side at the transmission end and at a receiver side at the receiver end, the interface at the transmitter side having a light transmitter ~~at the transmitter side~~, and electronics which modulate transmitted light corresponding to a data signal to be transmitted to obtain a modulated input signal and having a light-sensitive receive element at the receiver side, an output signal of which is modulated analogously to the modulated input signal to obtain ~~a~~ an electronic modulated receive signal, a monitoring device being additionally provided at the receiver side which, independently of the modulation of the receive signal, monitors and records the presence or absence of ~~an~~ transmitted input signal as a

signal monitoring output and displays it at a signal monitoring device, wherein, transmitter side, ~~devices are~~ a device is provided for clock-pulse-controlled lowering and raising of intensity of ~~the~~ transmitted light energy, the intensity of the transmitted light energy in the lowered state being below a threshold value at which the monitoring device records the presence of a data transmission signal and the intensity of the light energy in a raised state being above a threshold value at which the monitoring device records the presence of a data transmission signal to obtain an encoded output signal encoded in correspondence with the lowering and raising of intensity of transmitted light energy, and an evaluation device being provided for the evaluation of the output signal encoded corresponding to the raising and lowering of the transmission signal.

9. (previously presented) A device according to claim 8 wherein a laser is provided as a light transmission device.

10. (previously presented) A device according to claim 9 wherein a separate microprocessor is provided for the evaluation of the encoded signal monitoring signal.

11. (previously presented) A device according to claim 10 wherein the evaluation logic is implemented by software.

12. (previously presented) A device according to claim 9 wherein clock-pulse-controllable drive electronics for a laser are provided as a device for raising and lowering the light energy.

13. (previously presented) A device according to claim 12 wherein a device is provided for the clock-pulse-controlled switching on and off of laser supply voltage.

14. (previously presented) A device according to claim 10 wherein clock-pulse-controllable drive electronics for a laser are provided as a device for raising and lowering the light energy.

15. (previously presented) A device according to claim 14 wherein a device is provided for the clock-pulse-controlled switching on and off of laser supply voltage.

16. (previously presented) A device according to claim 11 wherein clock-pulse-controllable drive electronics for a laser are provided as a device for raising and lowering the light energy.

17. (previously presented) A device according to claim 16 wherein a device is provided for the clock-pulse-controlled switching on and off of laser supply voltage.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the receive element comprises a photodiode.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the light transmitter comprises a laser.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the laser is driven by a laser supply voltage that is switched off and on in encoded form.